

FROM JUDGES TO KINGS: SAMUEL, SAUL AND DAVID (C. 1100-1000 B.C.)

History of Ancient Israel

Praise and Worship

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The People Call for a King...

- The Judges form of government was proving to be ineffective
 - Samuel appoints his sons to be Judges over Israel 1 Kings 8:1-3: “When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges of Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beer-Sheba. Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.”
 - There was oppression in Israel by the Philistines who were installing garrisons in Israel (1 Samuel 10:5, 13:3).
 - Israel desired to “be like other nations, with a king to lead us and go before us and fight our battles.” (1 Samuel 8:20).
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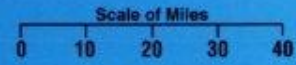
Saul

- Very little archaeological (arguably no) evidence of him and his reign
 - His rise to power is controversial among scholars. Did he distinguish himself in battle over the Ammonites (1 Sam. 11:1-11) or was he first anointed by Samuel (1 Sam. 9:15)? We are not sure of the order, but both took place according to Samuel.
 - Samuel was told by God to anoint Saul, a Benjamite (significance?)
 - He tells Saul who replies: “I am only a Benjamite, from the least of the tribes of Israel, and my family is the humblest of all the tribes of Benjamin...” (1 Sam. 9:21). (Sounds just like Gideon). He was a man of wealth (1 Sam. 9:1). He was handsome (1 Sam. 1:2).
 - Spirit of God “possessed” Saul while he was on the way back to Gibeah (1 Sam. 10:9-11).
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Saul the warrior

- The next several chapters of 1 Samuel recount Saul's military victories along with his son Jonathan.
 - They are victorious in repelling the Philistines for a while in chapter 14.
 - God instructs Saul, through Samuel, to kill the Amalekites when they come out of Egypt in chapter 15. Saul was to kill all of them, "men, women and child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey." (1 Sam. 15: 3). Why? These were the people who first attacked the Jews coming out of Egypt. (Read Deut. 25:17-19)
 - Saul defeated the Amalekites but took their King Agag alive and "spared him and the cattle and the fatling and the lambs and all that was valuable." (1 Sam. 15:9).
 - Immediately God announces, "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not carried out my commands." (1 Sam. 15:10).
 - Saul began to build monuments to himself.
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ISRAEL IN THE DAYS OF KING SAUL



Mediterranean Sea



God sends Samuel to David, and David to Saul

- “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a kin among his sons.” (1 Sam. 16:1).
 - Samuel arrives at the house of Jesse and his sons are lined up for Samuel to review. Samuel rejects them one by one and asks Jesse “are all your sons here?” and Jesse says, “there remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping sheep.” (1 Sam. 16:10-11).
 - David was “ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.” (1 Sam. 16:12).
 - David was anointed and at that moment “Now the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.” (1 Sam. 16:14).
 - Saul, not knowing David had been anointed, sends for him after being told David was a good musician and would soothe his torment. Saul made David his armor bearer and loved him. (1 Sam. 16: 21). Gave Michal in marriage to him, David is in the family!
 - David defeats Goliath the Philistine while serving Saul (1 Sam. 17). He is a hero. David gains a great reputation as a warrior greater than even Saul, and Saul becomes jealous. (1 Sam. 18). “Saul has killed thousands; David has killed ten thousands.” (1 Sam. 18:7). David must flee. Goes and lives among the Philistines????
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Ancient Slingshots



Saul's death and David's ascension

- Saul chased David all over the area unsuccessfully trying to kill him
 - David develops skills as a great warrior with a band of Philistines.
 - David lived as an outlaw for years, forming alliances through marriages (Abigail, Ahinoam; (1 Sam. 25:39-43) and by making important friendships (priest Abithar).
 - David would not kill Saul (spares him twice).
 - Saul consults a witch (1 Sam. 28). Samuel tells Saul he and his sons will die in battle.
 - Philistines overtake Saul and kill him, and his sons and their bodies are put on display (1 Sam. 31).
 - David mourns (2 Sam. 1).
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The Failures of Saul's reign

- We cannot choose which of God's commands we will follow and which we won't. God demands wholehearted obedience.
 - We cannot resent those who disagree with us. Surround yourself with those who are courageous enough to question or oppose you (Saul chose nepotism).
 - Don't deflect blame
 - Don't prioritize your status. Prioritize God's status.
 - Saul was not a man after God's own heart, but rather after his own glory. God gives Israel a heaping portion of what they asked for in demanding a king. Saul leaves Israel no better off than when he came to the throne.
 - Minimalists cite no archaeological evidence of Saul and Jonathan
 - Read a bit from Timothy Dalrymple's article.
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King David (mostly in 2 Samuel)

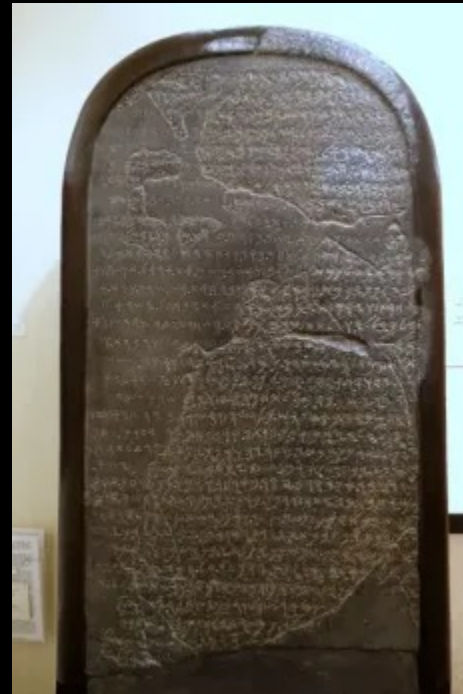
- Steps to the throne:

- 1) Serves Saul, friend of Jonathon, raised in court, marries into family
 - 2) No male heirs of Saul remain
 - 3) Uncle Abner last to be killed
 - 4) Anointed by Samuel (privately)
 - 5) Youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah (fulfills prophesy)
 - 6) Military prowess (became a mercenary of Ashish he Philistine)
 - 7) Has loyal soldiers (Joab, who kills Abner)
 - 8) Moves capital to Jerusalem (brings the Ark) a central location in Israel
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Tel Dan Stele references the “House of David”,
discovered in 1993. Take that minimalists!



The Moabite Stone (aka “Mesha Inscription”) discovered in 1868. Mesha, King of Moab references the “house of David” of Israel.



Battle relief of Pharaoh Shishak refers to the “Highlands of David”

In this relief on the wall of the Great Temple at Karnak, the Pharaoh Shoshenq I (biblical Shishak) listed the places he conquered in his campaign in Israel and Judah in 926 BC. Photo: Olaf Tausch



King David's Palace

- In 2005, Israeli archaeologist, Dr. Eilat Mazar, announced that she had unearthed the remains of David's palace. Mazar had noticed that the Bible described David *going down*, or *descending*, from his residence to the fortress (2 Sam. 5:17). She reasoned that David would have built his palace north of this fortress and outside the northern city wall, given that he was planning to expand the city. Her excavations in this area unearthed what she called the Large Stone Structure, a massive building complex which she describes as "the product of inspiration, imagination and considerable economic investment."⁸ Mazar was digging near where Kathleen Kenyon had earlier discovered a stone decoration that would have adorned the top of a pillar, called a proto-Aeolic capital, one of the most beautiful and intricate ones ever discovered in Israel. On the basis of the pottery found beneath the Large Stone Structure, she dated the first phase of its construction to the beginning of the Iron Age IIa, likely around the middle of the tenth century BC, precisely the time the Bible describes King David ruling over the United Kingdom of Israel.

